

MISSIONAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

8 NOVEMBER 2022

District funding is available to support Transforming Mission and Properties Fit For Mission projects. Full details of our current scheme and what we have said we will prioritise are available at <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/what-we-do/finance-fundraising.html>



If you think of in advance of the meeting of questions that you would like to ask about grant applications, please pass on to Neil Harland so that we can use our time together as efficiently as possible.

SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT –STOCKSBRIDGE CHRISTIAN CENTRE LEP – APPLICATION FOR DECISION

Proposal to modernise the premises to accommodate a new community shop and café which will be run by Food Matters, the local ecumenical food bank.

Rev Ian Lucraft became minister of Christ Church Stocksbridge this September, but was already embedded within the local community and the food bank as minister of Methodist-URC Christ Church Stocksbridge. He brings prior experience of major redevelopments of Christ Church and Hillsborough Trinity and of community development and partnership working, which is reflected in the detail in this application. Reliance on Ian to manage this project and get the new operations up and running is rightly highlighted as a risk.

Pages 2-7 give an overview of what they are seeking to do and how this relates to their future as a church.

I suggest that any grant be conditional on:

- Circuit grant support – Circuit Mission Vision Team to consider these proposals on 14 November, which will be subject to Circuit Meeting ratification
- Development of a mission plan for the church (page 8), which is one of our grant requirements – with Ian having recently been appointed and the possibilities of the partnership with Food Matters having raised the horizons of the congregation, it felt best to take time to prepare a collaborative plan than rush something on paper.

Total cost of the capital works is £282k (page 29). Tom Rattigan has been out to visit the site.

Grant request £42,375. This is 15% of the total cost, with Ian arguing that two phases of property development are being undertaken simultaneously. Our policy for capital projects is usually 10% up to a maximum of £20k.

POTENTIAL FUTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS - FOR INFORMATION

Hemsworth Little Fishes Soft Play (Barnsley) In November 2020 we awarded a £22k grant towards first year salary costs, and indicated that future funding may be available if necessary for future years. The soft play has opened in 2022. I am in dialogue with the church about an additional funding request

Inkersall (Derbyshire North East) - construction of a new multipurpose church/ community centre. They are currently meeting in a cramped portacabin.

Flintwood (Doncaster) – Approached us about support for replacement of failing heating and lighting in actively used premises, c£20k. The work is already in progress without need for district support, and so need for district funding. Tom has visited and offered advice. We have made a Warm Spaces grant to Flintwood.

New Christian communities – I am in discussion with a number of churches and teams about potential funding for new Christian communities, either as a next developmental phase of an existing piece of work, or a new venture. Some of these will potentially be seeking support from circuits and District by the time of our January or March meetings.